

Always a friend to the business community, Mr. O'Rourke's creativity and vision helped to achieve the longest labor agreements in the State of California, guaranteeing a stable and positive environment for employee groups as they serve the residents of the community. In addition, his efforts brought a vibrant commercial center to the Cordelia area of Fairfield, something the residents had identified as a critical need.

As chairman of the Travis Community Consortium, his legislative efforts assured the continued livelihood and superiority of Travis Air Force Base, the largest air mobility organization in the Air Force. His hard work brought a squadron of C-17s to the base, enhancing its mission as the West Coast terminal for aeromedical evacuation aircraft returning sick or injured patients from the Pacific area.

Mr. O'Rourke also successfully coordinated city, county, and State resources to bring many projects to Fairfield such as a state of the art public library, a successful auto mall along Interstate 80—a project that had eluded the city for decades and brings needed sales tax revenues to the general fund—and numerous recreational facilities important for after school programs and neighborhood events.

Mr. O'Rourke's many accomplishments have immeasurably improved the city of Fairfield and enriched the lives of its residents. I would like to thank him for his years of public service and wish him success and happiness in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall votes 924, 925, and 926 on October 1, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 924, 925, and 926.

TO CONGRATULATE THE INDUCTION OF DR. LARRY HORNBECK OF TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INTO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the induction of Dr. Larry Hornbeck of Texas Instruments into the National Academy of Engineering.

Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer, recognizing important contributions to engineering theory and practice.

Dr. Hornbeck invented the Digital Micro-mirror Device, or DMD, an optical semiconductor that is at the core of Texas Instruments' Digital Light Processing technology. His career at TI spans 34 years.

Texas Instruments is in my District, and I am proud of the advances in computing that

they have made and am also proud of their contributions and outreach to Dallas.

The Federal Government, through its support of basic research, played a pivotal role in the creation of the DMD.

The foundation of this technology was developed through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Security Agency research in the 1970s to assist with target detection and recognition. In 1989, DARPA provided funds to investigate the technology's application to high-definition TV.

Today, DLP is the only American display technology. Each chip contains millions of tiny mirrors that move independently to display trillions of colors.

TI's DLP business employs roughly 1,000 people in the Dallas area. The technology is now moving beyond projectors, television and cinema, into applications such as 3-D medical imaging—for example, allowing improved imaging of organs and better treatments for targeting tumors.

The current and potential success of DMD technology illustrates the importance of federal investment in basic research to innovation.

Congratulations to Dr. Hornbeck on his induction into the NAE. I am proud to highlight his work as an example of the importance of the engineering profession to the economy of Texas and the United States.

CONGRATULATING LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONER ROBERT C. CORDARO, THE 2007 HONOREE OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Robert C. Cordaro, Commissioner of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, who was named "Man of the Year" by the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association.

Mr. Cordaro is a 1979 graduate of Dunmore High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, senior class president and a first team all league football player where he held the position of linebacker.

He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Rochester in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in history. At the University of Rochester, he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He also was a member of the first team academic All-America Football Team where he held the position of linebacker.

In 1986, Mr. Cordaro graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Mr. Cordaro went on to work for United States Congressman Charles F. Dougherty, Republican, of Philadelphia, before becoming a practicing attorney.

He was a founder of Landmark Community Bank where he served as a member of its board of directors.

Mr. Cordaro is a partner in Cord Realty, the owner and manager of a diversified real estate portfolio.

Mr. Cordaro was elected to the Lackawanna County Board of Commissioners in 2000 and

was re-elected in 2004 after which he was named to the chairmanship of that board.

In 2006, Lackawanna County was the recipient of the National Award for County Arts Leadership, a first for Pennsylvania counties due to a program established in part by Mr. Cordaro.

According to Americans for the Arts, an innovative Education and Culture fee was created to encourage and support artistic endeavors within Lackawanna County, revenues from which are used to fund regional arts assets as well as arts and education activities.

The Lackawanna County Commissioners dedicated funds from this revenue source to support the Scranton Cultural Center, the Everhart Museum and the Lackawanna County Library System. "We believe that fostering arts and cultural activities is critical to our area's revitalization and growth," said Mr. Cordaro.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Commissioner Cordaro. His commitment to his community is reflected in the fact that he has been chosen for this distinguished award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY WORKFORCE ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, it is no secret that health care costs in the United States are sharply increasing. Nor is it any longer a surprise to hear that the rate of chronic illnesses and diseases has been on the rise. Left unabated, the continuing rise in both preventable illnesses and health care costs will put even more pressure on our already fragile health care system and threatens to bankrupt our Federal budget. These trends also have alarming implications for employers, both directly in terms of costs for employer-provided health care plans and indirectly through higher rates of absenteeism.

With all of these concerns in mind, I rise today to introduce the Healthy Workforce Act of 2007. In so doing, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from California, Representative MARY BONO. I would also like to thank Senator HARKIN, who is truly a leader on preventive health care issues, and who is the original sponsor of this legislation in the Senate.

The Healthy Workforce Act of 2007 provides a tax credit to businesses that offer comprehensive wellness programs to their employees, thereby promoting prevention of high cost chronic diseases. This tax credit will encourage business to raise health awareness through health education and health risk assessments. It will promote a supportive environment to encourage employee participation in workplace wellness programs, through offering meaningful incentive to participating employees, such as a reduction in health insurance premiums. And it will encourage employees to lead a healthy lifestyle through counseling, seminars or on-line programs. Keeping workers healthy in the first place can go a long way to reducing the growing health care costs to employers.

And Madam Speaker, these increasing costs are significant to employers. Average